

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-11: Canceled.

Claims 12-26: Canceled.

27. (Currently Amended) A plurality of micron-size solid particles, comprising at least one polyamide compound, wherein the particles ~~comprise~~ consist of a diameter of less than about 4 microns.
28. (Original) The plurality of particles of claim 27, wherein the at least one polyamide compound comprises a –CONH functional group.
29. (Original) The plurality of particles of claim 28, wherein the at least one polyamide compound comprises a nylon compound.
30. (Original) The plurality of particles of claim 29, wherein the nylon compound comprises nylon 6.
31. (Original) The plurality of particles of claim 27, wherein the particles comprise a diameter of less than about 2 microns.
32. (Original) The plurality of particles of claim 27, wherein at least about 40% of the particles are substantially transparent.
33. (Original) The plurality of particles of claim 32, wherein at least about 60% of the particles are substantially transparent.
34. (Original) The plurality of particles of claim 33, wherein at least about 80% of the particles are substantially transparent.
35. (Original) The plurality of particles of claim 27, wherein at least some of the transparent particles comprise at least one inert nucleating particle.
36. (Original) The plurality of particles of claim 35, wherein the at least one inert particle comprises at least one alumina-silicate compound.

37. (Original) The plurality of particles of claim 35, wherein the at least one inert particle comprises at least one color pigment.
38. (New) A reaction mixture, comprising:
at least one amide-based compound or amide-based monomer,
at least one suspending agent, and
at least one surfactant.
39. (New) The reaction mixture of claim 38, wherein the at least one suspending agent comprises an agent that is a poor solvent for the at least one amide-based compound or amide-based monomer.
40. (New) The reaction mixture of claim 38, further comprising at least one alkylating/condensing agent or at least one activator.
41. (New) The reaction mixture of claim 40, wherein the at least one activator comprises an isocyanate-based compound.
42. (New) A plurality of micron-sized particles formed from the reaction mixture of claim 38.
43. (New) A plurality of micron-sized particles formed from the reaction mixture of claim 40.